

Message Text

SECRET

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12/40

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 EB-11

AID-20 IGA-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 IO-13

RSR-01 /107 W

----- 117098

P 291030Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6352

S E C R E T TOKYO 11082

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA TWO)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VN, US

SUBJ: JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 169854; B. TOKYO 10749; C. STATE 157018

1. DURING AUGUST 28 CONVERSATION WITH KIKUCHI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU, FONOFF, E/COUNS ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGED STATEMENT OF FORMER AMBASSADOR USHIBA REPORTED REF B. KIKUCHI WAS NOT PERSONALLY AWARE OF USHIBA'S REMARKS. AFTER CHECKING WITH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, HE SAID THAT USHIBA HAD NOT NOTIFIED FONOFF IN ADVANCE OF HIS REMARKS AND THAT FONOFF'S ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF REMARK CAME FROM SAME NEWSPAPER SOURCES QUOTED REF. KIKUCHI SAID THAT FONOFF WOULD CHECK AND INFORM EMBASSY OF RESULTS.

2. E/COUNS THEN SAID STATEMENT HAD BEEN OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AND CONCERN TO USG BECAUSE IT RAISED QUESTION WHETHER USHIBA WAS STATING GOJ UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION THIS MATTER. DRAWING ON REF C, E.COUNS THEN EXPLAINED USG POSITION. WHILE KIKUCHI RELUCTANT TO PLACE HIMSELF IN POSITION OF CONTRADICTING USHIBA, HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS ALREADY GENERALLY AWARE OF USG POSITION RE AID

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TO DRV.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO GOJ AID TO DRV, KIKUCHI STATED THAT GOJ HAS EXTENDED SMALL AMOUNT OF AID TO DRV THROUGH RED CROSS AND MIGHT OFFER ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF AID WVEN PRIOR TO FORMAL RECOGNITION OF DRV. HOWEVER, GOJ WILL NOT PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL AID PRIOR TO RECOGNITION OF DRV. HE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO GOJ AMBASSADOR IN RVN, GVN HAS NO OBJECTION TO GOJ PROVIDING AID TO DRV.

4. AS USG AWARE, HE CONTINUED, GOJ NOT PARTY TO PARIS ACCORDS AND THEREFORE UNDER NO LEGAL CONSTRAINT NOT TO PROVIDE AID. HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER RECOGNITION OF DRV BY GOJ, HE SAID, GOJ WILL NOT PROVIDE AID IF DRV QTE VIOLENTLY VIOLATES UNQTE PEACE AGREEMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR GOJ TO MAKE DRV OBSERVANCE OF AGREEMENT A CONDITION OF AID, HE CONCLUDED, BUT IN PRACTICE GOJ POSITION THIS QUESTION IS THE SAME AS USG POSITION, EVEN THOUGH LEGALLY POSITIONS ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

5. COMMENT: KIKUCHI'S LEGALISMS ASIDE, THRUST OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT GOJ HAS NO INTENTION TO INCREASE PRESENT VOLUME OF AID TO DRV IN ABSENCE OF RECOGNITION OF DRV, AND WHILE AGREEING WITH USG ON FACT OF NON-COMPLIANCE BY DRV WITH JANUARY AGREEMENT, RECOGNITION MIGHT REQUIRE INCREASED -- BUT NOT SUBSTANTIAL -- AID TO DRV, IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY AID PROGRAM TO RVN. END COMMENT.
INGERSOL

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NNN

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